

REMARKS

Claims 1, 11-13, 23 and 24 are pending in the application upon entry of this amendment, and have been amended herein so as to be placed in condition for allowance. Claims 2-10 and 14-22 have been canceled. Entry of the amendment and favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

I. CLAIMS AMENDED TO INCORPORATE ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Examiner identified claims 10-12 and 22-24 as representing allowable subject matter in the Office Action mailed on April 8, 2008. In order to expedite favorable prosecution, applicants have amended the claims to incorporate such allowable subject matter and thereby place the application in condition for allowance.

Specifically, applicants have amended claim 1 to incorporate all of the features of allowable claim 10 including all of the features of intervening claim 7. Similarly, applicants have amended claim 13 to incorporate all of the features of allowable claim 22 including all of the features of intervening claim 19.¹

Regarding remaining allowable claims 11, 12, 23 and 24, these claims have been amended to independent form including all the features of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Thus, all claims in the application should now be in condition for allowance. Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

II. CONCLUSION

Accordingly, all claims 1, 11-13, 23 and 24 are believed to be allowable and the application is believed to be in condition for allowance. A prompt action to such end is earnestly solicited.

¹ Applicants note that claims 1 and 13 also have been amended to eliminate the language added in Applicants' response filed on July 6, 2008. The Examiner rejected claims 1 and 13 under 35 USC §112,

Should the Examiner feel that a telephone interview would be helpful to facilitate favorable prosecution of the above-identified application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number provided below.

Should a petition for an extension of time be necessary for the timely reply to the outstanding Office Action (or if such a petition has been made and an additional extension is necessary), petition is hereby made and the Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees (including additional claim fees) to Deposit Account No. 18-0988.

Respectfully submitted,

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DATE: December 9, 2008

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first paragraph, based on such language. Consequently, the rejection under 35 USC §112, first paragraph, is now moot in view of the deletion of such language.